

College Readiness Summary, 2017–2018

Austin Independent School District (AISD)

Purpose

This report provides an overview of the district's college readiness outcomes for seniors in the 2016–2017 and 2017–2018 school years.

Background

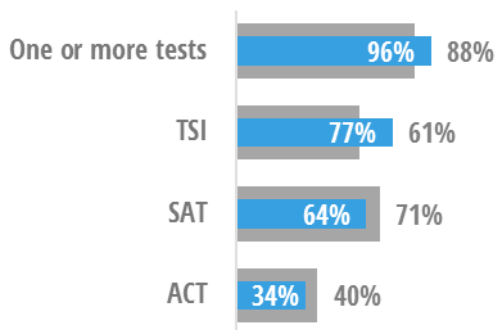
College readiness refers to the knowledge and skills a high school graduate needs to achieve successful college and career outcomes. Students and educators use multiple assessments to assess college readiness. These assessments include the ACT, SAT, and Texas Success Initiative (TSI) exams. If students meet college readiness benchmarks on these assessments, they are likely to succeed in credit-bearing courses needed for a college degree or program certificate without the need for remedial coursework.

How many seniors took a college admissions test?

Overall, 96% of AISD seniors took one or more college admissions tests in the 2017–2018 school year, a significant increase from the prior year (Figures 1 and 2). Although test participation was optional, district staff identified students who had not taken a college readiness test or did not meet college readiness standards on a test and provided necessary academic and/or procedural supports throughout the school year. Each high school also offered TSI testing on site, and senior TSI test participation increased from 36% in 2015–2016 to 77% in 2017–2018.

Figure 1

ACT, SAT, and TSI test taking increased significantly in **2017–2018**, compared with the 2016–2017 school year, and most AISD seniors took the SAT.

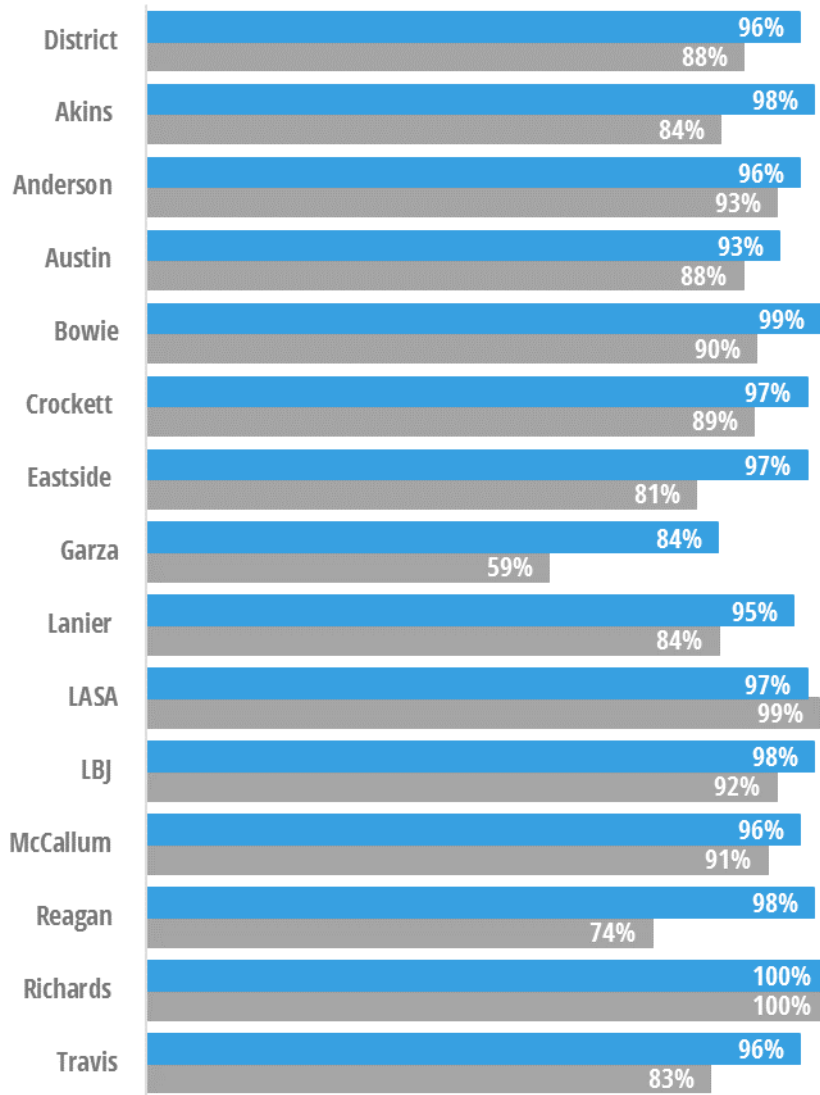


Source. District student enrollment and ACT, SAT, and TSI test records, 2016–2018

Note. Summary includes seniors who were actively enrolled at the end of the 2017 ($n = 4,294$) and 2018 ($n = 4,363$) school years.

Figure 2

Although the percentages varied across campuses, the percentages of AISD seniors who took at least one college admissions test increased in 2018, compared with AISD seniors in 2017.



Source. District student enrollment and ACT, SAT, and TSI test records, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018

Note. Summary includes seniors who were actively enrolled at the end of the 2017 ($n = 4,294$) and 2018 ($n = 4,363$) school years.

How many AISD seniors were academically ready for college?

Overall, greater percentages of AISD seniors met the college readiness standards in 2017–2018 than did so in the prior school year (Figures 3 through 5). These increases were observed across most campuses. Note, some seniors (4%) may not have had a test record on file (e.g., the student requested the score not be shared with the district) or have opted out of testing because it was not necessary for their postsecondary plans (e.g., earning career certification before graduation, entering the military, or taking a gap year before college enrollment). The absence of a test score does not necessarily indicate a student was not academically ready for college.

College Readiness Criteria

To be considered college ready, a student must have met college readiness criteria on the SAT, ACT, and/or TSI test. The criteria for each are :

ELA

SAT: ≥ 480 on the evidence-based reading and writing portion of the assessment

or

ACT: ≥ 19 on English and ≥ 23 composite

or

TSI: ≥ 351 on reading and ≥ 340 on writing with ≥ 4 on essay or ≤ 340 on writing MC with ≥ 4 on essay OR ≤ 340 on writing MC with ≥ 5 on essay and an ABE ≥ 4

Math

SAT: ≥ 503 on the math portion of the assessment

or

ACT: ≥ 19 on math and ≥ 23 composite

or

TSI: ≥ 350 on the math assessment

For more information on these assessments, please refer to the following sites.

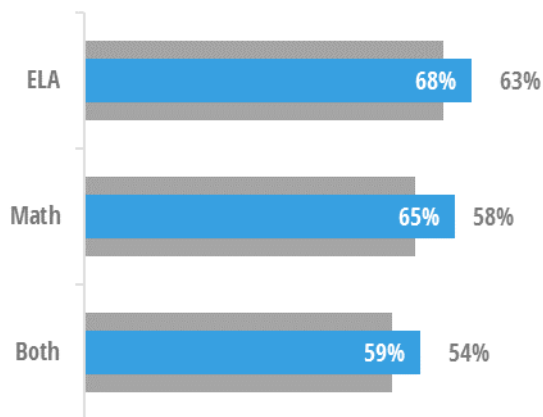
SAT: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/educator-benchmark-brief.pdf>

ACT: <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/college-and-career-readiness/standards.html>

TSI: <https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/accuplacer-tsi-assessment-interpreting-score-v2.pdf>

Figure 3

Overall, greater percentages of **AISD seniors in 2018** met college readiness criteria in English Language Arts (ELA), math, and both subjects compared with the proportion of AISD seniors in 2017.

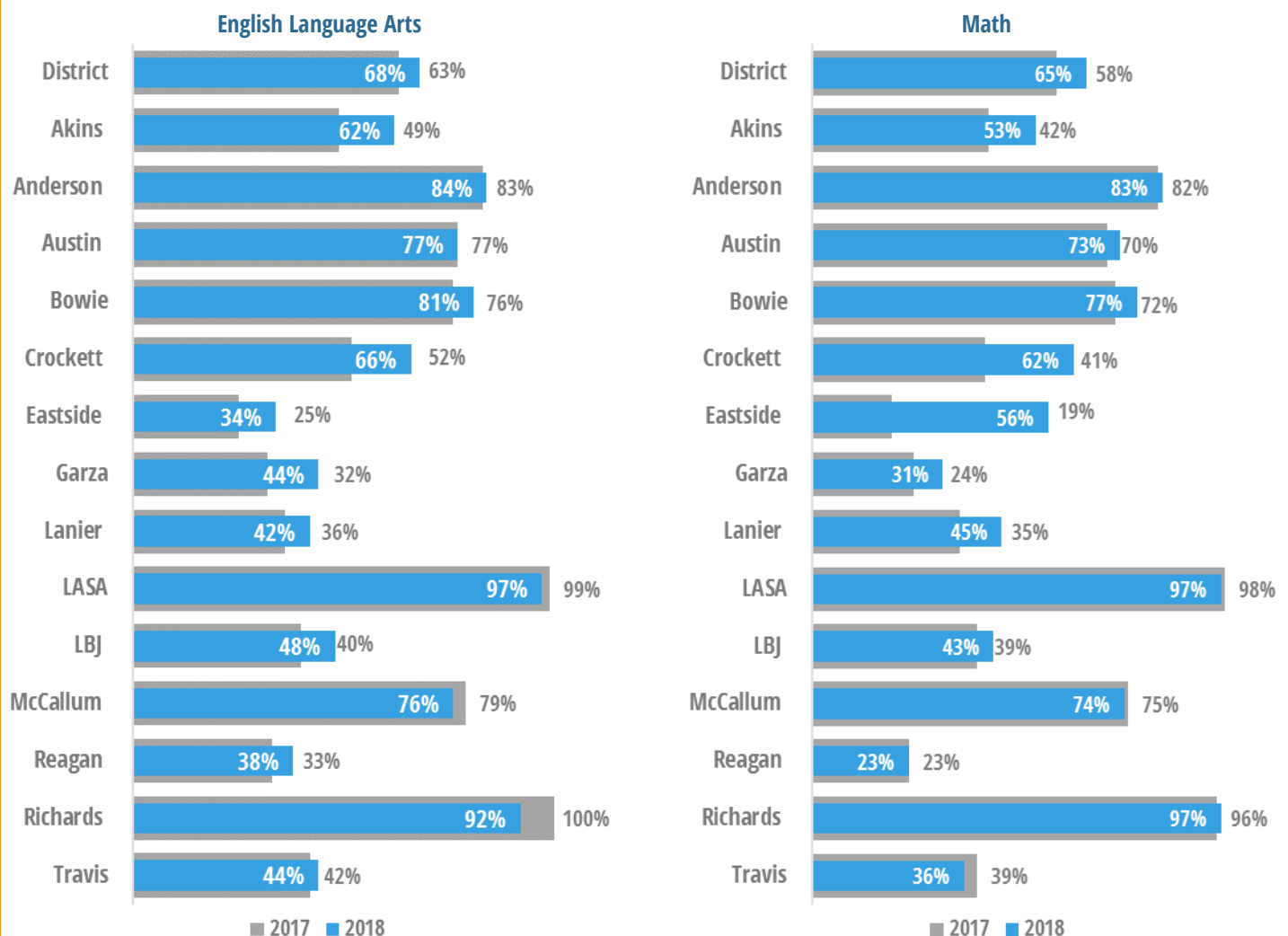


Source. District student enrollment and ACT, SAT, and TSI test records, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018

Note. Summary includes seniors who were actively enrolled at the end of the 2017 ($n = 4,294$) and 2018 ($n = 4,363$) school years.

Figure 4

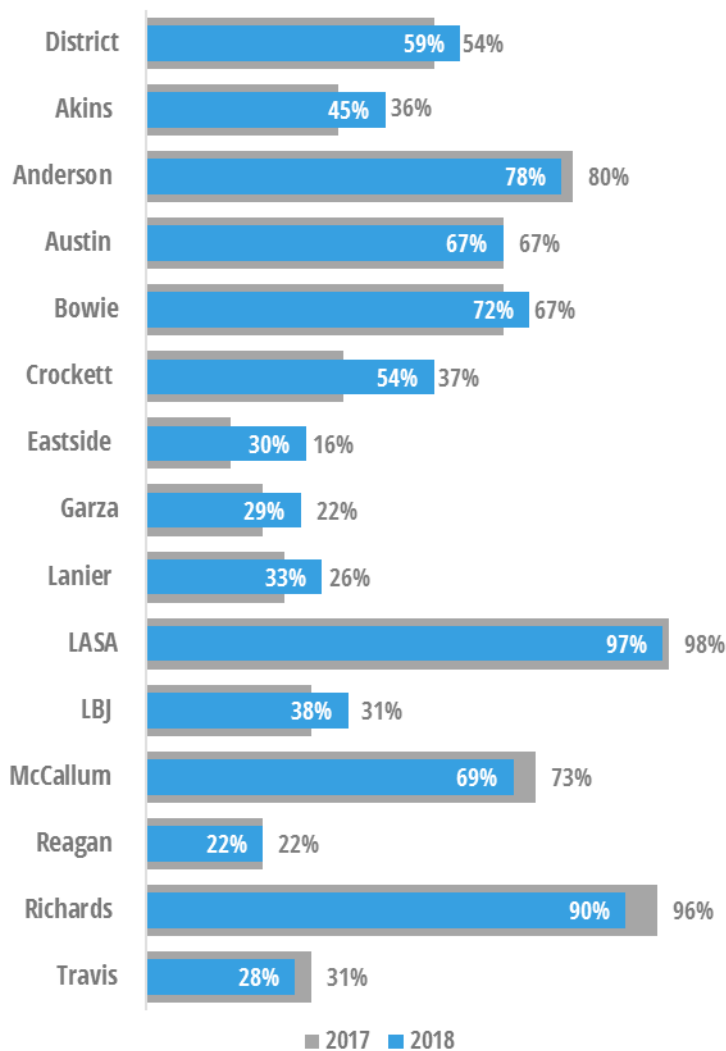
Most high schools experienced an increase in the percentage of seniors who met college readiness benchmarks in ELA and math in **2018** compared with the prior year.



Source. District student enrollment and ACT, SAT, and TSI test records, 2016-2017

Figure 5

Most high schools also experienced an increase in the percentage of seniors who met college readiness benchmarks in both subjects in 2018 compared with the prior year.



AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Karen Looby, Ph.D.

Department of Research and Evaluation

1111 West 6th Street, Suite D-350 | Austin, TX 78703-5338
512.414.1724 | fax: 512.414.1707
www.austinisd.org/dre | Twitter: @AISD_DRE

December 2018

Publication 17.53 RB